

Bylaws of the United Federation of Instances

Vēritāte servīmus (In Truth We Serve)

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December 9, 2022

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Title 1: General

Chapter I: Motto

The motto for the United Federation of Instances (hereinafter referred to as “UFoI”) will herein be adopted as “Vēritāte servīmus” which translates to English as “In Truth We Serve”.

Title 2: Code of Ethics

All instances of the UFoI agree to moderate their users based on a core code of ethics (hereinafter referred to as “Code” or “Code of Ethics”). Each instance may create additional rules, but must, at a minimum, uphold these ethics.

Chapter I: Restrictions

The following acts are **restricted or forbidden** on all instances within the UFoI:

- i. **No hate speech**, We define *hate speech* as any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a protected characteristic, in other words, based on their age, disability, ethnicity, gender, pregnancy, religion, nationality, sex or sexuality.
- ii. **No calls to violence**. This includes any individual promoting violence towards any person or group.
- iii. **Intentionally creating an account to circumvent people blocking**. This includes creating an account on a separate instance (a member of UFoI or not) with the intent of circumventing a ban.
- iv. **Disregarding an explicit request to disengage with other users**. Outright calls to dogpile will not be acceptable either.
- v. **Child sexual abuse material of any kind**, also referred to as “Child Pornography” or “CP”.

Chapter II: Requirements

The following behaviors are **required** for all instances within the UFoI:

- i. All bots must respect the #nobot tag, and must post unlisted.
- ii. Posts intended for commercial advertisement purposes must be posted with the #ad tag or unlisted.
- iii. All posts including nudity¹ must require a content warning (CW), be unlisted, or have its media marked as sensitive.

¹See (A) U.F.C. Ch. I § 1

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Title 3: Due Process

The core principle behind every decision is that the evidence will be weighted, considering both sides of the argument, and an impartial vote based on the evidence will be considered. Due process and ethics form the two core principles of the UFoI. A hearing is part of the application process for new instances, the expulsion of existing member instances, and even in the election and impeachment of Council members. Therefore, it is critical UFoI codifies the grantees of due process in all settings.

A hearing begins with a matter for consideration and they can be any of the following:

- i. Application for a new UFoI member instance;
- ii. Expulsion of an existing UFoI member instance;
- iii. Election of new Council members;
- iv. Impeachment of existing Council members.

Chapter I: **Transparency**

Chapter II: **Claims**

Claims are arguments that the target has knowingly violated the Code of Ethics.

3 U.F.C. Ch. II § 1 **Qualifying** A claim only qualifies for consideration if it has the following properties:

- i. The claim references a specific Code as listed here that the claimant believes is in violation;
- ii. The claim must include evidence, this typically takes the form of links to offending posts;
- iii. Hearsay is ineligible evidence;
- iv. The claim must have been reported seven days ago or more in order to enable the instance moderators to take a fair and nonpartisan decision.

3 U.F.C. Ch. II § 2 **Evidence** If a claim is eligible as per the requirements aforementioned, then it will be posted for public viewing, review and comment. Voting will be discouraged and two weeks will be given for any member of the public to provide evidence serving each claim. Evidence must be concrete and hearsay will not qualify as such. During the collec-

tion and assembling of evidence, no additional opinions may be considered. Furthermore, the accused may make a statement explaining their reasoning, and any additional accusations or other claims must be included in said statement, so long as the aforementioned claims are supported by evidence qualified by the requirements above.

Chapter III: **Voting**

After two weeks of collecting evidence have passed, the next phase is voting. Voting will be open to all users of all member instances. Once a quorum of a hundred users has voted, then fifteen days will be given to collect all votes. At the end of these fifteen days, the votes will be counted and the ruling will be enforced.

Chapter IV: **Judges**

The UFoI Council (hereinafter referred to as “Council”) will act as judges during all hearings. Its job will be mainly administrative: counting the votes, enforcing the judgments, and announcing each step of the process. The Council will also be responsible for ensuring the claims in a hearing are qualified.

Title 4: **Bylaws**

Chapter I: **Freedom of Leaving**

Any instance that is a member of the UFoI has the liberty of leaving UFoI at any time, without any prior notice or approval needed. The admin of the instance must, however, publicly inform the Council they are leaving. Any instance that leaves the UFoI must go through the entire admission process again, should they wish to rejoin.

Chapter II: **Moderation**

All instance members of the UFoI must, at a minimum, moderate their local members according to the Code² of the UFoI as stated herein. Furthermore, they should give their members reasonable due process when suspending them and, at a minimum, listening to appeals and ensuring everyone involved ex-

²See Title 2.

presses their arguments before making a judgment.

The following moderation practices are prohibited among UFoI members:

- i. Discriminatory practices targeting people for protected or immutable characteristics—such as nationality, race, sex, orientation, or disabilities—will be strictly forbidden;
- ii. Not considering both sides of an argument in an impartial and objective manner before making a decision is strongly discouraged;
- iii. Knowingly permitting content that is against the conditions of the Code of Ethics³ above.

³See Title 2.

Chapter III: **Mutual Federation**

All servers agree to federate with all other servers in the UFoI.

Chapter IV: **Amendments**

The bylaws of the UFoI may be amended with a super majority vote. This document defines a super majority as two-thirds or more of the Council members that cast a vote in favor of a revision of the bylaws for consideration. At this point, a vote is put up to all users in the UFoI whether or not to approve the revision. It then takes two-thirds support from the general population with a quorum of at least a thousand votes. Any proposals for amendments must be up for consideration for at least 30 days after the point the quorum is reached.

Appendix A: **Reference**

Chapter I: **Definitions**

(A) U.F.C. Ch. I § 1 **Nudity** For the purposes of this document, nudity will be defined as any state of nudity that involved a lewd exhibition or graphic focus on the genitals, as well as scenes that represent any sexual acts. Topless depictions of people are exempt from this definition and will not be considered nudity.

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